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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Laerz Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

24 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 4

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 16 November 1951, 37 MiG-15s, 4 single-engine planes and 2 biplanes were observed at Laerz airfield. Among 10 MiG-15s parked at the southern edge of the installation there was a plane having a much more pronounced slant on the leading edge of the rudder assembly than that of the other MiG-15s. Moreover, the rudder assembly of this plane appeared to be much lower.

(1)

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2. Motor vehicles observed during the period from 10 to 18 December included truck: [ ] jeep [ ] which operated daily between Wittstock and the airfield, and sedan [ ] which was often seen in front of the IVD building at the Ellerholz railroad station. A Soviet officer leaving the Rechlin restricted area was observed wearing a cap with blue pipings, blue-bordered silver epaulets with two stars, silver-bordered blue color patches without insignia and the following white patch on both lower sleeves [ ]. (2)

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3. Aircraft observed at the field between 1 and 2:15 p.m. on 29 November included 60 MiG-15s, 4 single-engine low-wing monoplanes, 3 biplanes and 2 twin-engine planes with radial engines and double-rudder assemblies. (3) (4) No aircraft were observed arriving by rail during the period from 21 through 29 November. There was little flying activity on 22, 23, 24 and 27 November and intensive flying activity on 28 and 29 November; night flights were made by about 4 MiG-15s on 21, 22, 23, 24 and 27 November.

[ ] one radio truck with an antenna about 3 meters long at its rear.

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4. On 6 December, aircraft observed at the field included 47 to 57 MiG-15s, 37 of which were counted, 5 single-engine low-wing monoplanes, 3 biplanes and 2 twin-engine aircraft with radial engines and double-rudder assemblies. On 7 December, 29 MiG-15s were counted and it was estimated that there were 10 to 20 others. Other aircraft seen were the same as on 6 December. The noses of all the planes except for those of the alert flight were covered with canvas.

5. During the period from 1 to 7 December, only two railroad tank cars, one filled with gasoline, the other one with crude oil, arrived in Laerz. On 7 December, boxes, 2 x 1.5 x 1 meter, were trucked to the Ellerholz railroad station where they were loaded in boxcars of a scheduled train. The shipping papers were made out for Frankfurt/Oder. The boxes loaded on that day had a total weight of

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1,000 kg. Other boxes, loaded in Ellerholz on that day were 5 x 0.9 x 2.2 meters. They were made of ply-wood fastened to a frame of square lumber 6 x 8 cm. The boxes were slightly arched at the top and covered with roofing paper.

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Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 10 December some MiG-15s circled over the field. Three or 4 take-offs and landings were observed. There was continuous flying by MiG-15s from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 11 December. Two twin-engine aircraft towing a silver-colored sleeve target circled over the field maintaining an interval of about 1,000 meters. Each of the sleeve targets was attacked by one MiG-15 approaching the target several times from above or from the rear. At each approach, bursts of 10 to 15 rounds were fired at the target.

7. There was no change in the status of the radio installation on Hill 77. Lights 30 to 100 meters apart were installed on both sides of the E-W runway 3 meters from its edges. (6) No lights were observed at the N-S runway. Six railroad tank cars were on the spur track in Laerz on 12 December and one on 13 December. Aircraft observed at the field on 13 December included 36 MiG-15s, [ ] 4 single-engine low-wing monoplanes, 3 biplanes and 2 twin-engine aircraft. No other planes were at the field.

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8. The entire airfield area was to be fenced in. Some of the holes required for the posts had already been dug. A board fence is to be erected along the Laerz-Ellerholz road, while a barbed-wire fence is to be built along the other boundaries of the installation. [ ] a fuel dump was being built in the wooded area southeast of the field, 30 to 40 meters from the edge of the woods. [ ] about 20 semi-underground fuel tanks were available. (7)

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9. [ ] the Wittenberge regional railroad headquarters had announced that 4 flatcars, 1 boxcar and 1 passenger car were due to arrive at Rechlin restricted area [ ] on 15 December. On 16 December, 2 tank trucks and 2 trucks with 8 air force soldiers were seen on flatcars at the Ellerholz railroad station. The cars were bound for Dresden-Klotzsche. (8) Aircraft observed at the field on 18 December included 42 MiG-15s, [ ] 4 single-engine low-wing monoplanes,

4 biplanes and 2 twin-engine aircraft. (4)

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10. On 14 December, 12 jet planes were observed at the field; two others were flying. Sedans [ ] and [ ] trucks were observed at the installation:

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A German civilian from the Rechlin restricted area [ ] bought bakery products at the Roebel bakery. [ ] (9)

11. At 1 p.m. on 26 November, aircraft observed at the field included 24 MiG-15s, [ ] 12 unidentified jet planes; single-engine low-wing monoplanes; 6 biplanes; and 2 B-25. (1) and (4) There was night flying between 5:30 and 11 p.m. The planes took off in pairs but landed individually with the aid of a searchlight which directed its beam on the runway. Trucks [ ] and sedans [ ] were observed.

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12. On 5 December, aircraft observed included 30 MiG-15s; 11 unidentified jet planes; 6 Po-2s; 6 Yak-11s; and 2 twin-engine planes. (1) Between 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 14 December, 33 jet planes, 8 Po-2s, 6 Yak-11s, and 2 twin-engine planes were parked at the installation. 50X1-HUM

(4) There was flying throughout the day by the twin-engine planes which towed an air sleeve. One MiG-15 was observed taking off from the turf of the field. Landings by MiG-15s on turf have not been observed.

On 27 December, aircraft observed included 42 MiG-15s, some of which were two-seater planes; 2 twin-engine aircraft; 4 Yak-11s; 6 Yak-11s; and 4 Po-2s. 50X1-HUM Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., about 18 MiG-15s practiced flying. The two-seater MiG-15 landed at the field. From 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. 50X1-HUM on 28 December, there was flying by MiG-15s. At 1:10 p.m.,

On 2 January 1952, single-seater MiG-15 and a two-seater MiG-15 were parked near the canal at the southern edge of the installation. (4) 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

14. From 1 to 3 p.m. on 5 December, 27 MiG-15s and 2 single-engine planes were parked at the field. There was no flying. A railroad tank car was observed on the spur track. From 10 a.m. to noon on 6 January, 26 MiG-15s were observed. (4) There was no flying. No crates for jet fighters were observed during the past months. Between 2 and 4 p.m. on 12 December, 29 MiG-15s and 2 twin-engine planes were observed at the field. There was no flying. Work on the construction of a board fence had been started. (7) Trucks were observed. On 13 December, the occupation of the field was the same as previously observed. There was no flying. Two railroad tank cars were on the spur track during the period from 10 through 13 December.

(4) On several days preceding 13 December, the two twin-engine planes located at the field made flights towing an air sleeve which was fired at by MiG-15s. Some of the pilots at the field were being given special training. New personnel were continuously observed arriving by plane. Some two-seater jet planes used for training were also located at the field. About 30 railroad tank cars would arrive at the field every month. (10) On 27 December observed 25 MiG-15s at the field. There was flying from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 50X1-HUM

(4) Some MiG-15s again practiced firing at air sleeves towed by the two-engine planes. On 19 December, two railroad tank cars were observed on the spur track.

Comments.

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- (1) It cannot be determined whether the jet plane described by source actually represents a jet fighter type differing from the standard MiG-15. So far, all such reports on novel jet fighter types allegedly observed in the Soviet Zone of Germany have proved erroneous. (1) the MiG-15 and its two-seater version (type 29) are standard equipment for air units stationed in Germany. The features differentiating these two versions are not known. The two-seater MiG-15 is said to have a thicker and somewhat longer fuselage than the one-seater MiG-15. 50X1-HUM
- (2) This patch is presumably worn by Soviet guard units.
- (3) The number 60 MiG-15s, was confirmed. It is believed that two fighter regiments are stationed in Laerz. Both regiments were last observed at the field on 24 November 1951. The two regiments are equipped with about 80 MiG-15s. The reports on the number of aircraft observed at the installation differ from one another. See paragraphs 4, 13 and 14. This may be explained by

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the fact that the installation is difficult to observe and by the possible existence of unidentified aircraft in the dispersal areas. Such dispersal areas may be in the woods bordering the field on the southeast.

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- (5) It is not clear whether these shipments of boxes represent routine shipments or whether Laerz has become an aircraft spare parts distribution point for units of the Northern Fighter Corps.
- (6) For location of radio installation and detail sketch of runway lights, see sketch 1 and 2 of Annex.
- (7) For planned location of the fence, see Annex, sketch 1. The fencing-in of a number of other airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany was also reported. Inasmuch as these fences will be board fences about 2.5 meters high they will make the observation of Soviet airfields even more difficult. The fence to be built around Laerz airfield will make it impossible to observe the installation from its west side. The fuel dump is reported for the first time.
- (8) A central motor vehicle distribution point of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army is believed to exist in Dresden-Klotzsche.

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- (10) The number of about 30 railroad tank cars arriving at Laerz every month is believed to be [ ] probable

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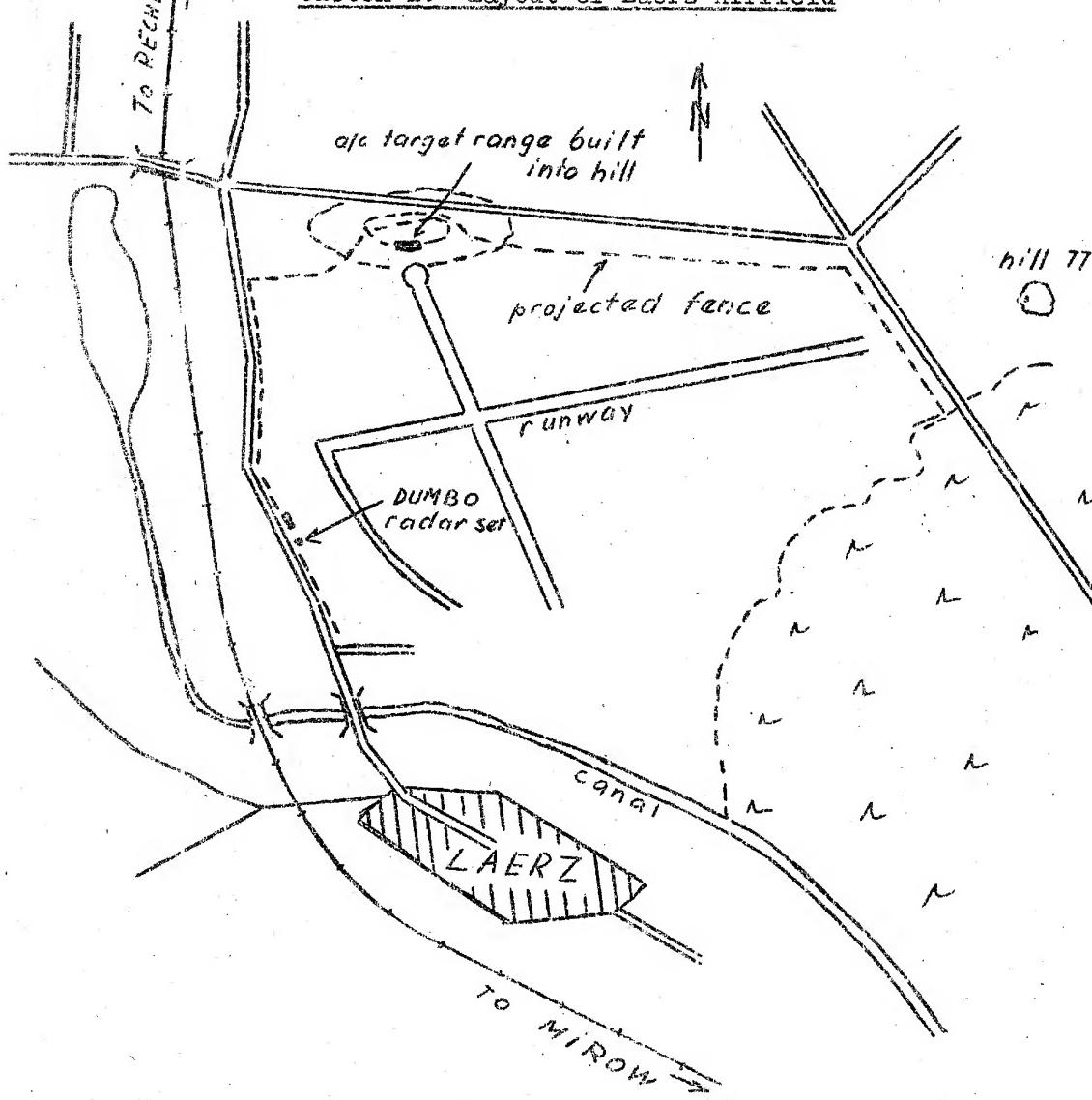
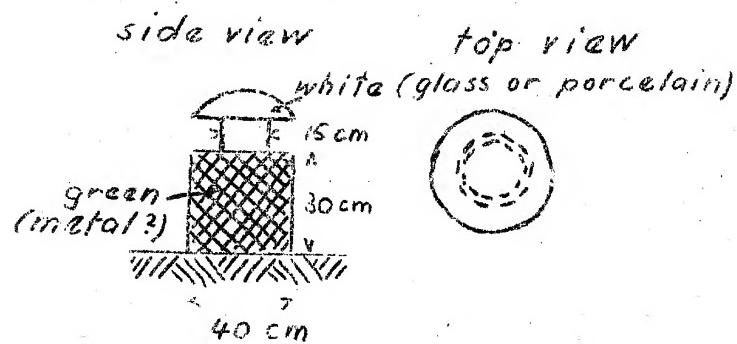
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Annex

Sketch 1: Layout of Laerz AirfieldSketch 2: Details of Runway Lights at Laerz~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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